

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 and ending at page 2, line 1, as follows.

--In the printing apparatus, it is already known that the printing characteristics may fluctuate depending on the environmental conditions such as the temperature and humidity of the environment in which the apparatus is used. In addition to such environmental conditions, the printing characteristics may be varied after ~~the~~ use of the printing apparatus over a certain period. For example, in the printing apparatus based on the electrophotographic process, the photosensitive characteristics of the photosensitive drum vary according to the environmental conditions as mentioned above or by ~~the~~ prolonged use, whereby the printing characteristics such as gradation observed on the printed image shifts from the desired value. Also, the printing apparatus ~~based on the~~ utilizing an ink jet system is known to show ~~such change in the~~ printing characteristics characteristic changes because of a change in the discharge characteristics of the printing head.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 and ending at page 3, line 2, as follows.

--However, the calibration for the scanning apparatus for stabilizing and optimizing the characteristics thereof has not conventionally been executed.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 and ending at page 4, line 11, as follows.

--The foregoing objects can be attained, according to the present invention, by an image processing method comprising:

a step of generating a calibration condition for an image forming unit, by reading a first chart formed by the image forming unit with a reading unit and generating a calibration condition for the image forming unit, based on the data obtained by the reading[[:]];:

a step of generating a calibration condition for the reading unit, using a second chart printed in advance; and

a discrimination step of discriminating the first and second charts;

wherein the discrimination step discriminates whether a chart read in each of the step of generating a calibration condition for the image forming unit and the step of generating a calibration condition for the image reading unit is an appropriate chart.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 and ending at page 5, line 1, as follows.

--The foregoing object can be attained, according to the present invention, by an image processing method for entering read data obtained by reading a chart printed in advance with a reading unit and generating calibration data for calibrating the reading unit based on the read data:

wherein the chart is rendered foldable with the printed surface thereof inward and is not printed with a data patch in the vicinity of the folding portion, and the chart is stored in an operation manual of the image processing method in a state folded in the folding portion with the printed surface thereof inward.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2 and ending at line 3, as follows.

--Figs. 22A and 22B are views showing an example of a method for storing the scanner chart.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 25 and ending at line 27, as follows.

--A scanner calibration data storage unit 11 stores scanner calibration data (explained in more detail later) ~~and~~ stored in the server PC 1.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 21 and ending at page 22, line 10, as follows.

--The detection of the lower left registration mark 155 is executed by searching a black (non-white) area of a pixel number corresponding to such registration mark, within an area predetermined from the lower left corner of the A4 sized-area. If a step S182 identifies a failure in detection of the lower left registration mark, a step S183 returns an error signal. If a registration mark detection error signal is returned in this discrimination step, a step S122 in Fig. 12 executes an error display. An example of such error display is shown by an error window 173 in Fig. 17. ~~An~~ The error window 173 is displayed on the personal computer. The displayed error message ~~transmits~~ instructs the user to repeat the reading operation after confirmation of the position of the chart to be measured and the reading resolution, and the chart reading is executed again in the step S120.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 6 and ending at line 23, as follows.

--Then, as in the aforementioned scanner calibration, a step S45 discriminates whether the chart used is a proper chart. As the scanner calibration is intended in this case, there is discriminated whether the chart is the printer chart B. The flow of such discrimination is as explained in the foregoing with reference to Fig. 18, and is executed after a step S44 stores the data of the chart of A4 size in the memory. More specifically, a step S181 in Fig. 18 detects the lower left registration mark, and a step S184 detects the ~~lower~~ upper left registration mark. In case of failure in detecting these registration marks, a step S46 executes an error display 173. The displayed error message ~~transmits~~ instructs the user to repeat the reading operation after confirmation of the position of the chart to be measured and the reading resolution, and the chart reading is executed again in the step S44.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 2 and ending at line 4, as follows.

--In the following there will be given a detailed explanation ~~on~~ of a second embodiment of the present invention.--.